(e) This is purely an operational matter, the responsibility of which has been given to the respective sponsor banks in terms of the above stated letter.

Acceptance of foreign aid for Tsunami victims

4211. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he on Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas celebration explained Government's policy about acceptance of foreign aid for rehabilitation of tsunami victims in the context of India's refusal to foreign aid after the Tsunami disaster;

(b) if so, in what terms; and

(c) whether he clarified that India would be open to accessing multilateral funding for long-term rehabilitation working; if so, what has been the response of Pravasi Bharatiya representatives and foreign investors thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) For rehabilitation, India will be open to accessing international financing including from multilateral aid agencies. Response of the participants was positive.

Status paper on FDI

4212. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring out a status paper with regard to Foreign Direct Investment in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the status paper is likely to come out; and

(d) whether Government have recently permitted increase in FDI in any section and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Government have recently increased sectoral cap for FDI in (i) Telecom sector from 49% to 74%, (ii) Civil Aviation sector from 40% to 49% and (iii) Township, housing, built-up infrastructrue and construction development projects up to 100%.

Task Force on revision of procurement norms

4213. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Task Force on revision of procurement norms to ensure greater transparency, competition, fairness, and elimination of discretion in procurement of goods by Government has submitted its Report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have accepted the recommendations of the Task Force; and

(d) If so, the time-frame by which the recommendations would come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Task Force in its recommendations has suggested ways an means for bringing in greater efficiency, economy, accountability and transparency in public procurement system.

Based on the recommendations of the Task Force, three separate Working Groups have been set up by the Government for preparation of standard documents for 'Goods', 'Works' and 'Consultancy'.

Outstanding debt of Tamil Nadu

4214. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of debt arrears outstanding against the State Government of Tamil Nadu as on date;

(b) whether the State Government of Tamil Nadu has made any representation in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the quantum of annual interest being paid by the State Government on these arrears?